

Message Text

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 2948

E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: RESEARCH VESSEL CLEARANCE REQUESTS

REF: A-0579

1. EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS ON HANDLING GOI CLEARANCE OF US
RESEARCH VESSEL IN INDIAN WATERS WERE OUTLINED IN 77, NEW DELHI
3454. THIS STILL HOLDS GOOD.

2. OCEANOGRAPHY HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A PRIORITY AREA FOR
JOINT COLLABORATION UNDER THE JOINT INDO-US SUBCOMMISSION ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. CONSEQUENTLY A JOINT WORKSHOP ON OCEANO-
GRAPHY IS PROPOSED TO BE HELD TENTATIVELY IN SEPTEMBER 1978
IN INDIA. OBJECTIVE IS TO IDENTIFY FRUITFUL AREAS OF COOPERA-
TION IN MARINE SCIENCES AND TO FORMULATE OUTLINES OF PROGRAMS
AND PROJECTS FOR COOPERATION. THE FOLLOWING AREAS HAVE CURRENTLY
BEEN IDENTIFIED AS OF PRIMARY INTEREST:

(I) GEOPHYSICAL AND GEOLOGICAL PHENOMENA ALONG THE BOUNDARY OF
THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT TECTONIC PLATE.

(II) GEOLOGIC EFFECTS OF THE SEDIMENTARY LOAD ON THE BAY
OF BENGAL THROUGH THE GANGES, BRAHMAPUTRA AND MEGHNA RIVERS.
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(III) INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE MONSOON AND OCEAN CIRCULATION AND
WATER CHARACTERISTICS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

(IV) CHEMICAL TRACES IN THE OCEAN.

(V) BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTIVITY OF INDIAN OFFSHORE WATERS, INCLUDING

WATERS OF THE 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE.

3. OUR SUGGESTION IS THAT OCEANOGRAPHIC SHIP CRUISES SHOULD PREFERABLY FORM PART OF THESE JOINT STUDIES TO FACILITATE GOI APPROVAL. IN ANY CASE THE WHOLE QUESTION OF THESE CRUISES CAN BE BROUGHT UP AT THE WORKSHOP. WE SUGGEST THAT THE AMERICAN DELEGATION TRY TO REACH SOME UNDERSTANDING WITH THE GOI FOR SPEEDIER CLEARANCES ON THESE CRUISES.

GOHEEN

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